The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bryan Steil
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Derrick Van Orden
1513 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Glenn Grothman
1211 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
451 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tony Wied
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 5, 2025

To Members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation:

As organizations representing Wisconsin's biohealth industry and health systems, we write to express our strong support for the NIH and its vital role in advancing health, driving economic growth, and improving the lives of Wisconsinites.

We urge you to maintain robust NIH funding and oppose any significant cuts that will jeopardize these critical benefits. NIH funding is essential to research that leads to new treatments and therapies for Wisconsin residents:

- Right now, transplant patients in Wisconsin are alive today thanks to the "UW Solution," a breakthrough that revolutionized organ transplantation by extending the viability of human organs. Prior to the UW Solution, a liver from a donor had to be implanted within four to six hours of retrieval. The UW Solution extended preservation time to 20 hours, ensuring that organ transplants were no longer restricted by geography. Over 200,000 transplants have been performed at the UW Health Organ Transplant Center to date — more than any other center in the Midwest.
- Scientists are currently conducting research on gene therapy to treat childhood blindness caused by mutations that affect retinal cells.

- Cancer patients are receiving treatments that range from one of the original chemotherapy drugs, 5-fluorouracil — discovered right here in Wisconsin — to next-generation immunotherapy approaches for childhood cancers.
- Wisconsinites hospitalized with life-threatening infections are being treated with antibiotic drugs using optimal dosing strategies thanks to clinical guidelines developed by researchers at UW–Madison. The same researchers have discovered hundreds of potential new antimicrobial drugs — critical in the fight against antibiotic resistance.
- Medical College of Wisconsin researchers pioneered a screening to detect Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Syndrome (SCIDS). Now mandatory in every state, the screening has saved thousands of lives.

Each of these discoveries started as a research hypothesis that ultimately became a commercially viable treatment. NIH funding plays a critical role in this process, acting as the spark that ignites the biohealth industry's economic impact. As a result, Wisconsin's biohealth ecosystem has become a thriving hub of innovation, fueled in large part by NIH investment. In 2023, NIH funding to Wisconsin institutions totaled $654 million, supporting 7,760 jobs and generating $1.48 billion in economic activity. This investment is fundamental to Wisconsin's position as a national leader in the broader biohealth industry, a sector that sustains 141,000 jobs statewide. Major biomedical companies — including Accuray, MilliporeSigma and Eli Lilly — have made significant investments in Wisconsin in the last three years, recognizing the state's growing reputation as a national leader in biohealth.

However, the impact of NIH extends far beyond the economy — it changes lives. Across Wisconsin, NIH research translates into tangible improvements in patient care, medical breakthroughs, and technological advancements. Each year, more than 20,000 patients at UW–Madison and UW Health participate in clinical trials, accessing life-saving and life-changing treatments for diseases such as Alzheimer's, cancer, and degenerative neurologic conditions. CAR T-cell therapy is another NIH-funded breakthrough that reprograms a patient's own immune cells to fight cancer. Developed at the Medical College of Wisconsin, this innovation has led to success in treating leukemia and lymphoma, offering new hope to patients who had exhausted other options.

These kinds of medical breakthroughs are made possible by advances in technology. Innovations in medical imaging — which allow doctors to detect diseases earlier and improve treatment precision — can be traced back to NIH-funded research. These discoveries have helped shape the next generation of imaging systems at companies like GE HealthCare in Waukesha, WI. NIH investment is also expanding healthcare research in Wisconsin's rural communities. The NIH-funded Wisconsin Research and Education Network (WREN) at UW–Madison is expanding the reach of clinical trials and new treatments to underserved areas. By partnering with 80 rural clinics statewide, WREN ensures that breakthroughs in opioid treatment and other urgent healthcare challenges reach patients regardless of where they live.

Direct NIH grants improve medical care, but they're only one piece of what comprises research. Recent proposals have included calls to slash Facilities & Administration (F&A) funding, an essential component to conduct research. F&A covers the essential costs — lab space, regulatory compliance, and patient protections — that NIH won't fund directly. Think of F&A like a

hospital: while doctors and treatments save lives, F&A covers the buildings, utilities, and safety measures that make their work possible. These rigorously audited funds are indispensable to carrying out research.

Significant reductions in NIH and F&A funding would have profoundly negative consequences for Wisconsin. We could see job losses in the biohealth sector, slowing progress in the fight against diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's, and major impacts to patient care. Reduced funding would also limit access to critical healthcare services, particularly in rural areas. As a current leader in biomedical care and innovation, cuts to NIH funding would undermine Wisconsin's economy and hurt Wisconsin patients.

We urge you to prioritize continued funding for the NIH and oppose any significant cuts to critical research and the essential infrastructure that supports it. We are committed to working with the delegation to find sustainable solutions that ensure the long-term health and vitality of this critical national resource.

Sincerely,

Abingdon Health USA
Advantigen Biosciences
AIQ Global, Inc.
Axio BioPharma
BioForward Wisconsin
BrainXell, Inc.
Calimetrix
Cellular Logistics, Inc
Children's Wisconsin
Emplify Health
Exact Sciences
Froedtert ThedaCare Health
Functional Bioscience Inc
GE HealthCare
Gilson, Inc
Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce
Kendrick Labs, Inc
Marquette University
Marshfield Clinic Health System
Medical College of Wisconsin
Morgridge Institute for Research
Promega Corporation
RPRD Diagnostics LLC
Stem Pharm, Inc
Terra Bioforge
Universities of Wisconsin
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
UW Health
Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation
Wisconsin Association of Hematology and Oncology
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Wisconsin Rare Disease Alliance
Wisconsin Technology Council